

1 There are a number of charitable
2 organizations saying thank you to people who have done
3 nice things for them, and that's fine. That's really
4 polite. But I'm not sure they wouldn't want more
5 local, diverse ownership, too.

6 (Applause.)

7 That's what we're calling for. You're
8 getting a really consistent message here. Please take
9 you -- take these meetings further around the country.
10 I think you'll get the same message. And please take
11 that back to D.C. and craft new rules that will
12 implement this message.

13 Thank you very much.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

16 Microphone one.

17 MR. VARGAS: Hello. My name is Carlos
18 Vargas, and I am a Program Coordinator for Barrios
19 Unidas (phonetic), a gang intervention prevention
20 counseling agency in eastside Salinas, California.
21 Tonight, I'm a messenger for the youth of eastside
22 Salinas.

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1 The message I deliver this evening is one
2 of gang violence, drug addiction, illiteracy, pregnant
3 kids, overpopulation, and, in some cases, death. In
4 a community where these issues dominate our children,
5 we, as a community, need to find common ground and
6 search for the answers within.

7 That's when I had an idea. Why not apply
8 for a low-powered radio station? Why not let the
9 youth of the community talk about the problems that
10 are affecting them directly?

11 (Applause.)

12 What a positive impact to let young people
13 address young people through radio airwaves. What a
14 positive thing to have youth run and operate the radio
15 station. What a positive impact if you let the youth
16 facilitate discussions, because kids will influence
17 kids. Me, as a 37-year-old, it's hard to reach
18 sometimes -- it's very difficult to reach a 16-year-
19 old. But a 16-year-old has a better chance of
20 reaching a 16-year-old.

21 You go to almost any home in eastside
22 Salinas and you will hear a radio being played, but it

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1 is not the radio our youths can truly call their own,
2 or radio that truly addresses their needs. If our
3 local radio giants want to continue to market to our
4 youth, instead of interacting with them, be my guest.

5 The time has come for us as a local
6 community to provide a forum for communication,
7 understanding, and discussion for our kids and our
8 community as a whole. So I am here this evening --

9 (Applause.)

10 -- asking for a low-power radio station
11 license, so I can do this.

12 (Applause.)

13 I've heard all the reasons why I can't do
14 it. But I am here to explain why I need it.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. DAVIS: Thank you very much.

17 At microphone two.

18 MR. LEVY: Hi. My name is Sidney Levy.
19 I'm from San Francisco. I am an immigrant, a human
20 rights activist, and a media democracy activist. I
21 was one of the coordinators of the hearing in San
22 Francisco on media ownership attended in the spring of

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1 last year by Commissioner Adelstein.

2 This was one of 13 regional hearings the
3 communities put together, not the FCC. That was last
4 year. That day in San Francisco we had over 650
5 people come giving over seven hours of public comment,
6 representing every region, every color, every age,
7 every opinion, in the larger Bay Area. This was an
8 unprecedented civic event in our community.

9 KORM TV, which is unaffiliated, covered
10 the event. KPSS and (inaudible) radio, which are
11 independent, broadcasted it live. We asked the
12 commercial TV stations to come not only to cover it
13 but to be in the panel. We got no for an answer. The
14 local ABC, no; local CBS, zero; local NBC, zip; local
15 folks, zilch.

16 (Applause.)

17 We asked them to cover it, not only to be
18 on the panel. Nothing. All we got from them was
19 rumors from people that worked inside that said that
20 from high above they were told not to touch the issue.
21 I'm asking you why. Why wouldn't they touch the
22 issue? Maybe because commercial media has an interest

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1 on not touching the issue, because they were talking
2 about themselves, about media ownership, about media
3 monopoly, about media (inaudible).

4 We didn't get it. What kind of democracy
5 can we fashion when the airwaves are supposed to be
6 known to the public? We have all of the commercial
7 stations in the Bay Area -- not one came.

8 I'm not saying it is sour grapes.
9 I'll be very brief. This is not a charity. I'm not
10 talking about like a children's charity. I'm talking
11 about an issue that is as important, but it is a
12 little bit more controversial, and it's vital for a
13 democracy.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

17 At podium one.

18 MR. HEARST: A different perspective, I
19 believe, from what I've heard. My name is Howell
20 Hearst. I am a graduate of the Defense Language
21 Institute. I'm a former Captain of United States Army
22 Intelligence. I'm a longtime marketing consultant and

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1 a published freelance writer of 30 years.

2 Being allowed only two minutes to speak,
3 I cannot present a substantive statement. Your rule
4 effectively blocks this. Some of us in America have
5 developed a suspicion, which we state neither as
6 opinion nor fact, that it is possible, at least
7 conceptually, that some of our Presidents, Senators,
8 Representatives, and federal civil servants could be
9 construed to have been or to be in financial, or at
10 least in philosophical, collusion --

11 (Laughter.)

12 -- with the highest multi-national
13 American corporate interests a major portion of whose
14 holdings are the military industrial complex, the oil
15 industry, and the controlling media of the country.

16 (Applause.)

17 Our media, which legally belongs to us,
18 the citizens of the United States. This suspicion
19 indicates only our frame of mind as we observe
20 American corporate presidents taking multi-million
21 dollar salaries while financing most political
22 campaigns, whether Democrat or Republican, while

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1 exporting our jobs out of the country, while massively
2 profiting from various worldwide wars, while
3 controlling the mining, manufacturing, distribution,
4 wholesale, and retail sales in advertising of nearly
5 all products and services sold to us on their --
6 pardon me -- our media.

7 Last paragraph. Should proof of such
8 suspicions -- listen. Listen closely. Should proof
9 of such suspicions be unearthed, we citizens, as the
10 sole legal source of legitimate government authority,
11 have a sacred obligation to deal with such
12 constitutional violations of contract between our
13 government and ourselves. When it is clear we are
14 being taken for fools, we arise, we organize, and we
15 fight for what is legally ours and --

16 MS. DAVIS: That was your last paragraph,
17 you said.

18 MR. HEARST: And we --

19 MS. DAVIS: That, you said --

20 MR. HEARST: -- we --

21 MS. DAVIS: -- was your last
22 paragraph.

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1 MR. HEARST: And we always win.

2 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

3 MR. HEARST: We are here to remind you of
4 this.

5 MS. DAVIS: Thank you very much.

6 MR. HEARST: I'm finishing.

7 MS. DAVIS: Okay. All right. Okay. Your
8 last sentence?

9 MR. HEARST: Listen to the words. You
10 work for us on the panel. We -- you do not work for
11 the corporations. If you do not bring this insidious
12 media monopoly under control, we American citizens
13 will find a way to bring it under control.

14 Edward R. Murrow said a citizen of a
15 republic --

16 MS. DAVIS: You're not good for your word.
17 Okay. Thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 Microphone two.

20 MR. KENNEDY: I just have to ask: how
21 many of us are wondering who can type that fast up
22 there?

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1 (Laughter.)

2 My goodness.

3 Good evening. My name is Mark Kennedy. I
4 was born and raised here in this beautiful area. I am
5 the father of three very influential young boys under
6 the age of 10, and in the last couple of years I've
7 had the opportunity to give back to this community and
8 serve on some boards. Most notably, I am serving on
9 the National Steinbeck Center, the YMCA, and the
10 American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

11 What I want to take issue with tonight is
12 there seems to be this notion that local management of
13 our media are a bunch of corporate robots, and I don't
14 think that's the case. You know, there are
15 individuals in this room that serve our community, and
16 they do a great job.

17 On these boards, what I find is that they
18 very seldom say no. They usually are saying, "What
19 else can we do to help?" Most of the time they seem
20 just completely consumed with their jobs in the local
21 issues that are going on and are finding ways to help
22 out. I think the thing that's most notable is the

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1 time that they give. They're not only members of the
2 community, but they're serving on all the boards.

3 On all the boards that I have served on in
4 the last three years, there has always been a
5 representative of local media, whether it be radio or
6 TV. They're giving up their time, not just because
7 they have to.

8 So those are my brief comments. I just
9 want to say that I don't believe they are corporate
10 robots. They're people that are here to serve. And,
11 yes, there is corporate management out there, but I
12 don't ever hear them say to me, "I'd better check with
13 corporate on that one." I don't get that.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. DAVIS: Okay. A warning. We are down
17 to 10 minutes for those on line who have friends they
18 want to share their time with. Microphone one.

19 MR. CARVEY: Great. Thank you. My name
20 is Tom Carvey. Good evening, Commissioners. I am the
21 Executive Director of Common Ground, Monterey County,
22 and a 40-year resident of Monterey County myself,

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1 raised four children here, and lived for 10 years in
2 Big Sur of all places -- no power, no electricity, no
3 TV, and it was beautiful.

4 (Laughter.)

5 Well, welcome to the big world, and Common
6 Ground, Monterey County, is a group composed of
7 some labor folks, affordable housing advocates, AG
8 business people, educators, hospitality, minority
9 groups and we advocate for issues such as affordable
10 housing, land use policies that are approaching sanity
11 so that the 12% of people that can buy homes here in
12 Monterey County currently may be increased to a
13 greater proportion, maybe 15%, maybe more.
14 These are controversial issues here in Monterey
15 County. And we're very thankful for some of our local
16 radio stations who have given us time -- ample time --
17 to discuss issues with the community, issues that are
18 controversial.

19 And I have been very fortunate. For 15
20 minutes every Monday morning, at 8:30 on Radio KION,
21 AM 1460, Common Ground has been able to bring in a
22 guest, an expert from the community -- could be the

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1 Superintendent of Schools, could be the Mayor of
2 Salinas, it could be an expert on water. And we've
3 been able to discuss issues such as affordable
4 housing, which in our county of Monterey is a very
5 controversial topic.

6 We have been able to discuss that, not
7 only to discuss it and have back and forth dialogue
8 about this controversial topic, but to receive call-in
9 telephone calls from people around the county, all the
10 way from Santa Cruz to San Ardo, calling in and
11 wanting to express their opinions, and wanting to tell
12 us what they think about issues such as affordable
13 housing, education, the environment, health care,
14 citizenship, water supply, agricultural viability.

15 We've been able to do this in Spanish also
16 on the sister station, La Pressioso 100.7, and it has
17 been a great opportunity. We're thankful for our
18 local radio stations.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

22 Microphone two.

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1 MS. CAMERON: Hello. Good evening,
2 Commissioners. And thank you so much for sticking out
3 this late. My name is Laura Cameron. I'm also with
4 the National Writers Union. I'm on the Steering
5 Committee of the local chapter. I also serve as a
6 national trustee. I live here in Seaside, and I edit
7 *Monterey Magazine*.

8 When I lived in Britain for 16 years, I
9 didn't watch a lot of television, because you had to
10 pay for it. And when I came back to the U.S., I
11 didn't watch a lot of television because it was awful.
12 So I survive on the BBC and NPR, and I'm very, very
13 grateful for them.

14 (Applause.)

15 I'd like to address the idea of freedom of
16 thought, by which I mean the independent thinking I
17 would love to see the FCC demonstrate in these
18 matters. I suppose given the political leadership who
19 appointed this particular Commission, I shouldn't be
20 surprised that some of the decisions we've heard about
21 reflect what I would call bias, and bias towards big
22 business and big media.

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1 I am here to urge the Commissioners to act
2 in the ideal mode of the Supreme Court, and place
3 themselves beyond efforts to sway their decisions,
4 whether financially or by cronyism or political
5 pressure. I urge you to remember who you serve -- the
6 people.

7 The vast majority of us don't live
8 anywhere near New York City or Los Angeles, the big
9 acknowledged media centers. Locally owned, locally
10 programmed radio and television are essential to
11 serving and informing the American people. Maybe
12 someone who appoints people doesn't want us to be that
13 informed. I don't like to think that, but --

14 (Laughter.)

15 -- we deserve better than biased, ignorant
16 reporting, bias towards big business, and ignorance of
17 our local issues.

18 (Applause.)

19 We really deserve better than that.

20 (Applause.)

21 As a writer, as a consumer of media, and
22 as a taxpayer, I urge the FCC to encourage local media

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1 in every way you can and discourage media monopoly
2 wherever it rears its head.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

6 Okay. Microphone one.

7 UNIDENTIFIED OPEN MIC PARTICIPANT: Okay.

8 Good morning, and welcome to the Monterey Peninsula,
9 where citizens must be able to receive signals from
10 PBS, Pacifica, a few NPR station programs, and BBC in
11 order to get firsthand information from investigative
12 reporters on issues and actions vital to our survival.

13 I speak of such crucial concerns as access
14 to health care, affordable housing, care of the
15 homeless, care of the elderly, the state of the
16 physical and political infrastructure, changes in
17 educational procedures, protection of the environment,
18 our civil rights, i.e., what is being done in our name
19 with our tax dollars, our national resources, and our
20 very lives. We only get sound bites locally, if we
21 get them.

22 We implore you to take extra care in

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1 protecting these valuable resources, so that we truly
2 have access to immediate news, alternatives to the
3 limited party lines. We can make our own decisions as
4 to what is good for us and our world, only if we are
5 allowed access to all sides of issues -- indeed,
6 access to the issues themselves.

7 Thank you for your consideration.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

10 And I would like to say thank you for
11 passionate, spirited, intellectually sound, most
12 times, comments.

13 (Laughter.)

14 Tonight has been fun, and I hope you get
15 get the joke at the end. Everyone who spoke tonight
16 obviously has deep feelings or you wouldn't be here
17 at nearly midnight. But most of all, I want to thank
18 the Commissioners who have sat here --

19 (Applause.)

20 -- listened, taken notes, heard you.

21 (Applause.)

22 There are two minutes left before they

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1 march us out of this building. I don't know if
2 anybody on the panel has a comment, but I'm certainly
3 going to turn it back to the Chair for that word.

4 COMMISSIONER ABERNATHY: Commissioner
5 Copps, do you have some closing words?

6 COMMISSIONER COPPS: I just want to thank
7 everybody for their heartfelt input for the facts, for
8 the data, for the new things we learned. I agree with
9 these calls for more hearings. Commissioner Adelstein
10 and I have specifically asked Chairman Powell to hold
11 a series of Commission meetings around the country on
12 ownership, specifically on ownership, as we plunge
13 into rewriting the rules, and we're looking at the
14 rules that the court sent to us. I hope we'll be back
15 out here.

16 We also urge, though, community activists
17 to hold their own hearings and groups to hold their
18 own hearings. We can do a few. If Chairman Powell is
19 reluctant to have full Commission meetings, I think
20 others of us will hit the road ourselves and do them
21 like we did last year.

22 But I would also urge communities around

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1 the country to hold their own hearings. And speaking
2 for myself, I'll be at as many of them as I can
3 possibly be at and I would encourage people to do
4 that.

5 Thank you again for your hospitality and
6 for your input.

7 (Applause.)

8 COMMISSIONER ABERNATHY: Thank you,
9 Commissioner Copps. Commissioner Adelstein?

10 COMMISSIONER ADELSTEIN: Just real quick
11 before we get booted out of here. I think that we
12 heard a lot of eloquence tonight from the people of
13 California. I'm used to that, because I heard it when
14 I was here in San Francisco a while back. But I found
15 that I think people are even more educated than they
16 were last year. They are even more articulate,
17 incredibly clear, incredibly thoughtful, and very
18 concise, I might add.

19 But there is a clear message we're going
20 to take back. I mean, we really heard it loud and
21 clear. I don't think that you're going to let us get
22 away with this again.

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1 (Laughter, followed by applause.)

2 And we're ready to go on the road. I'm
3 ready to hear from all of the different communities
4 here in California, large and small, and all across
5 the country. We'll go to as many as we can. We can't
6 go to as many as we should, because there just is not
7 enough time. But we will go everywhere we can, and we
8 will hear this message and whatever other messages
9 people have to deliver. And we will take it back and
10 really try to integrate this into the rules.

11 So thank you so much for your eloquence
12 and for taking the time to share with us your views.
13 It's your airwaves.

14 (Applause.)

15 COMMISSIONER ABERNATHY: And, in closing,
16 I just want to say thanks to everyone for sticking
17 with us tonight, for educating us, for providing me
18 with new information about what we should be looking
19 at, what we should be thinking about when it comes to
20 localism, for giving respect to your fellow speakers,
21 whether you agreed or disagreed with them. That, I
22 think, reflects what is best about who we are as

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1 Americans.

2 And we and I will continue to work on
3 these issues. As I said, I don't think anyone has a
4 monopoly on the truth. I need to keep learning and
5 listening, and that's what we'll keep doing.

6 So thank you very much.

7 This meeting is adjourned.

8 (Whereupon, the proceedings in the
9 foregoing matter were adjourned.)
10

11 #####

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